



# Hon. Robert T. Matsui

## Member of Congress

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*Robert T. Matsui*  
Serving California's 5th District

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### **MATSUI COMMEMORATES START OF CONSTRUCTION OF FOLSOM DAM MODIFICATIONS PROJECT**

SACRAMENTO, CA – Congressman Robert T. Matsui participated today in a ceremony marking the first construction contracts being awarded in order to begin modifications to the Folsom Dam. Colonel Michael Conrad of the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation Area Manager Mike Finnegan, California Reclamation board member Bill Edgar, and SAFCA board member Steve Cohen joined Matsui in the ceremony.

“The floods in 1986 were a wake up to us all, revealing the need for a comprehensive flood control strategy in the Sacramento region,” Matsui said. “This plan was 18 years in the making, and with this step we will know our children and grandchildren will be better protected against acts of nature that threaten the region.

“This is truly an historic moment in bringing improved flood control for Sacramento. Once constructed, the modifications to Folsom Dam will improve its operations, making it even more effective at protecting the residents and businesses of Sacramento.”

Although the Folsom Dam and American Levee system are credited with preventing \$4.7 billion in flood damages during the 1986 storms, the dam is capable of providing more than double the current amount of protection with the new improvements and expansion to the structure. Currently, the Folsom Dam does not have the capability to release significant amounts of water to prepare for a flood emergency. The modifications to Folsom Dam include enlarging the existing outlets and adding two new outlets to provide better water release capacity and control.

The Folsom Dam modifications project is a critical part of a comprehensive plan to control flooding in the Sacramento region. The other parts of the plan, called the American River Watershed Project, include levee strengthening along the Sacramento River, a 7-foot raise of the Folsom Dam (the Mini-Raise), and a permanent bridge to replace the Folsom Dam Road, which was closed last year due to security reasons.

Funding for the Folsom Dam Modification Project is shared between federal, state and local government. The entire project will cost \$208 million and take approximately eight years to complete. Matsui secured \$4 million in federal funds last year. Funding for this project has been included in this year's FY05 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which was approved recently by the House of Representatives. This bill still needs to be approved by the Senate, agreed to by both Houses and approved by the President.

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